



## Improvements Coming Soon for West River Parkway Trails

The very popular pedestrian and bike trails between the river bluff and West River Parkway are scheduled for reconstruction by the Park Board thanks to their success in garnering over \$2 million in grants from the Federal Highway Administration. The reconstruction will improve trail safety and durability and could include signage, site furnishings, drinking water fountains and landscaping. The trail will connect with the rebuilt section of trail at Minnehaha Falls Park.



Council member Sandy Colvin Roy recently met with Park Board staff and resident representatives from Becketwood to discuss the possibility of changing the location of the ped/bike crossing near 44<sup>th</sup> Street. It is dangerous due to sight lines that are very limited for northbound traffic by the steep curve immediately preceding the crossing. Neither drivers nor those crossing the parkway have much time to see each other in advance. A walk of the area suggests that a better location would be to the north, about half-way between two curves in the road, which coincides with the spot where both trails are on the same level, right across from the Becketwood driveway.

“Residents brought their concerns to me a while back,” noted Council member Colvin Roy. “When I learned of the Park Board’s project, I jumped at the opportunity to solve the problem while the trails will be torn up. My goal is to make this safety improvement a part of the project. I will urge that the City modernize the lights along the paths during the construction, which would make the process cheaper and more efficient for everyone.”

Planning & design will happen this fall and construction begins spring of 2009. The Park Board will be seeking resident volunteers to serve as an advisory committee to the project.

## Credit Crisis effect Limited, So far

The direct effect on Minneapolis of the credit crisis can be seen through the interest rate that the City pays on our bonded debt. Despite volatility, the effects so far are within the budgeted estimates for the year.

Chief Financial Officer Patrick Born reports that about twenty per cent of Minneapolis’ bonds are Variable Rate Demand Notes. The flexible VRDN debt has helped the City to pay more than \$80 million in debt over the last few years.

The City’s AAA credit rating allows Minneapolis to get a low interest rate. The volatility in recent interest rates is “a signal that there are problems in the market that we have to look out for. If we thought that this would persist, then we would issue fixed rate bonds to replace the variable rate bonds”, according to Mr. Born. The City does not use any of the “toxic” types of debt that have caused the current world wide crisis.

## Neighborhood & Community Engagement Commission

The City is now accepting applications from residents for 7 positions on the newly created Neighborhood & Community Engagement Commission (2 Mayoral and 5 Council). Its role will be to shape how the City engages with its residents while delivering services and how it will work with neighborhood and community organizations, as well as oversee funding for neighborhood revitalization work. Deadline for application to these seven positions is November 19, 2008. Applicants must be Minneapolis residents who do not hold a current election certificate.

Visit [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/communications/communityengagement.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/communications/communityengagement.asp) and download an application. Applications are also available at the Minneapolis City Clerk’s Office, room 304 of City Hall at 350 S. Fifth St.

## Your Firewood Can Harbor Dangerous Species

If you're planning to get some wood for your fireplace, be aware that there could be a destructive stowaway in your logs. The emerald ash borer is an invasive beetle that has already killed more than 40 million ash trees nationwide, primarily in southeast Michigan. Minnesota has the potential to lose 867 million trees because it has one of the nation's highest volumes of forestland ash on public property. Minneapolis' 200,000 ash trees make up 20 percent of all trees on public and private land in the city.

Although the emerald ash borer has not reached Minnesota yet, it has been discovered in Wisconsin. Residents can play a big part in delaying its arrival in Minnesota and minimizing the damage to our trees. To slow the spread:



**Buy or Harvest your wood near the area where you are going to burn the wood;** especially avoid bringing wood into Minnesota from out of state.

**Ask firewood dealers about their wood.** When buying firewood here in town, find out where it came from. Firewood dealers in Minneapolis are required to be licensed by the City, so ask to see the City license.

**Watch your ash trees carefully.** The earlier the emerald ash borer is found, the sooner it can be addressed. Residents should examine ash trees in their neighborhood for tree canopy thinning or small D-shaped exit holes left in the bark by the borer. If there is any suspicion that a tree is infested, residents can contact the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's "Arrest the Pest" hotline at (651) 201-6684 for the metro area or 1-888-545-6684 for greater Minnesota.

For more information: [www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/cab.htm](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/cab.htm)

## Events & Special Meetings

### NENA Town Meeting

**Nov 6 7 pm** Keewaydin Park Nokomis Library Renovation & 50<sup>th</sup> St LRT Platform Expansion.

### Nokomis Urban Craft Fair

**Nov 8 9 am - 2 pm** Nokomis Community Ctr, 2701 Minnehaha Pkwy. High quality crafts & treats for sale. More than 20 vendors, many using recycled items.

### Minnehaha-Hiawatha Corridor Forum

**Nov 12 5:30 pm** Sanford Middle School. Hennepin County presentations on studies as part of Community Works Initiative for area between Minnehaha Avenue and Hwy 55.

### Lk Nokomis Community Schools Fundraiser

**Nov 15 5-8 pm** Crosstown Covenant, 5540 30<sup>th</sup> Ave. Silent Auction & Fabulous Fat Lorenzo's spaghetti dinner.

### Nokomis Library Renovation

**Nov 20 7-9 pm** Nokomis Library Volunteers from the community will be recruited to serve on the capital project Advisory Team.

### Fiddler on the Roof – Morris Park Players

**Nov 7-8, 14-15, 21-22 7:30 pm; Nov 16 2 pm** Folwell Middle School, 3611 20<sup>th</sup> Ave S. Tickets at the door, \$15 Adults, \$12 seniors, students, groups of 10 or more. Donate school supplies for Folwell students.

### Last Week of Yard Waste Collection

**Nov 17-21** Set bagged yard waste near trash cart on your collection day.

## Open Appointments

**Citizen Environmental Advisory Cmte** Nov 7

**Arts Commission** Nov 14

**Youth Violence Prevention Exec Cmte** Nov 14

**N'hood & Community Engagement Commission** Nov 19

**Housing Board of Appeals** Nov 21

**Public Health Advisory Cmte** Nov 21

For information and applications, visit:

[ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open](http://ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open)